

**DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

A.G. KAWAMURA, Secretary

1220 N Street, Room A-170  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-6681



January 4, 2005

To: **Milk Handlers, and Certified Industry Supervisors and Certified Laboratories  
Testing for Beta Lactam Antibiotics**

Subject: **Diversion of Raw Milk Confirmed Positive for Beta Lactam Antibiotics for  
Use as Calf Feed**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture, Milk and Dairy Food Safety Branch (MDFS) has adopted the following protocol for the diversion to calf feed of bulk raw milk tanker loads confirmed positive for beta lactam drug residues:

A 1:100 dilution of the tanker milk sample shall be run as an additional test step using the M-a-85 screening test that was used for the Load Confirmation procedure. The sample shall be diluted with milk that has been confirmed negative for beta lactam drugs. This diluted sample must give a negative test.

Tanker loads testing negative on the 1:100 dilution may be diverted to calf feed provided the shipping invoice that accompanies the load includes all of the following: load identification (route and trailer number), the negative test result, dilution tested, test used and recorded test reading, certified laboratory identification, signature of certified analyst, name of handler or responsible party, plus a clear statement "MEDICATED ANIMAL FEED –WITHDRAW 45 DAYS BEFORE SLAUGHTER." This information is also to be supplied to the appropriate MDFS regional office.

This protocol is not approved for diversion of milk for feeding animals other than calves. Loads testing positive with 1:100 dilution must be disposed of by an approved manner other than animal feed. Questions on this protocol may be referred to (916) 653-6681.

Sincerely,

Stephen Beam, Ph.D.  
Chief  
Milk and Dairy Food Safety Branch  
Animal Health and Food Safety Services